position to sphericity possessed by the soapy water. It is a consequence of the physical homogeneity of the materials. Moreover, the bubble possesses considerable powers of restitution. If the drifting bubble collides lightly with some hard surface, a deformation is produced, and this is immediately restored to the spherical form as the contact pressure ceases; just as the net as a whole with all its parts springs back to the rectangular form, when you release it after pulling upon it.

So also with a field of magnetic or electric forces. The atom is presumably a *Gestdt* in the same sense ; and also a crystal, perhaps, though in the last case there is room for doubt.

Professor Wolfgang Kohler is generally credited with having discovered physical *Gestalten* about 1922, although, of course, nets and soap-bubbles were familiar objects before that date. He and his colleagues have attempted, by the aid of this principle, to find physiological explanations of many features of mental activity, more especially of visual space-perception. But Kohler has also proposed to find in it the dynamic explanation of morphogenesis ; and it is purely the physical principle of *Gestalt* that concerns us here.

The *Gestalt* is essentially a unitary whole; and smaller *Gestalten* may be grouped as parts of larger wholes, and these again within still larger *Gestalten.* Thus a number of soap-bubbles may be clustered together, each pressing upon others with which it is in contact and forming areas of reciprocal deformation. Such a

cluster is a *Gestalt* of a higher degree of complexity.

It is suggested that a whole cell is essentially one physical or physico-chemical *Gestalt,* and that in turn a multi-cellular organism is a *Gestalt* of a higher order comprising